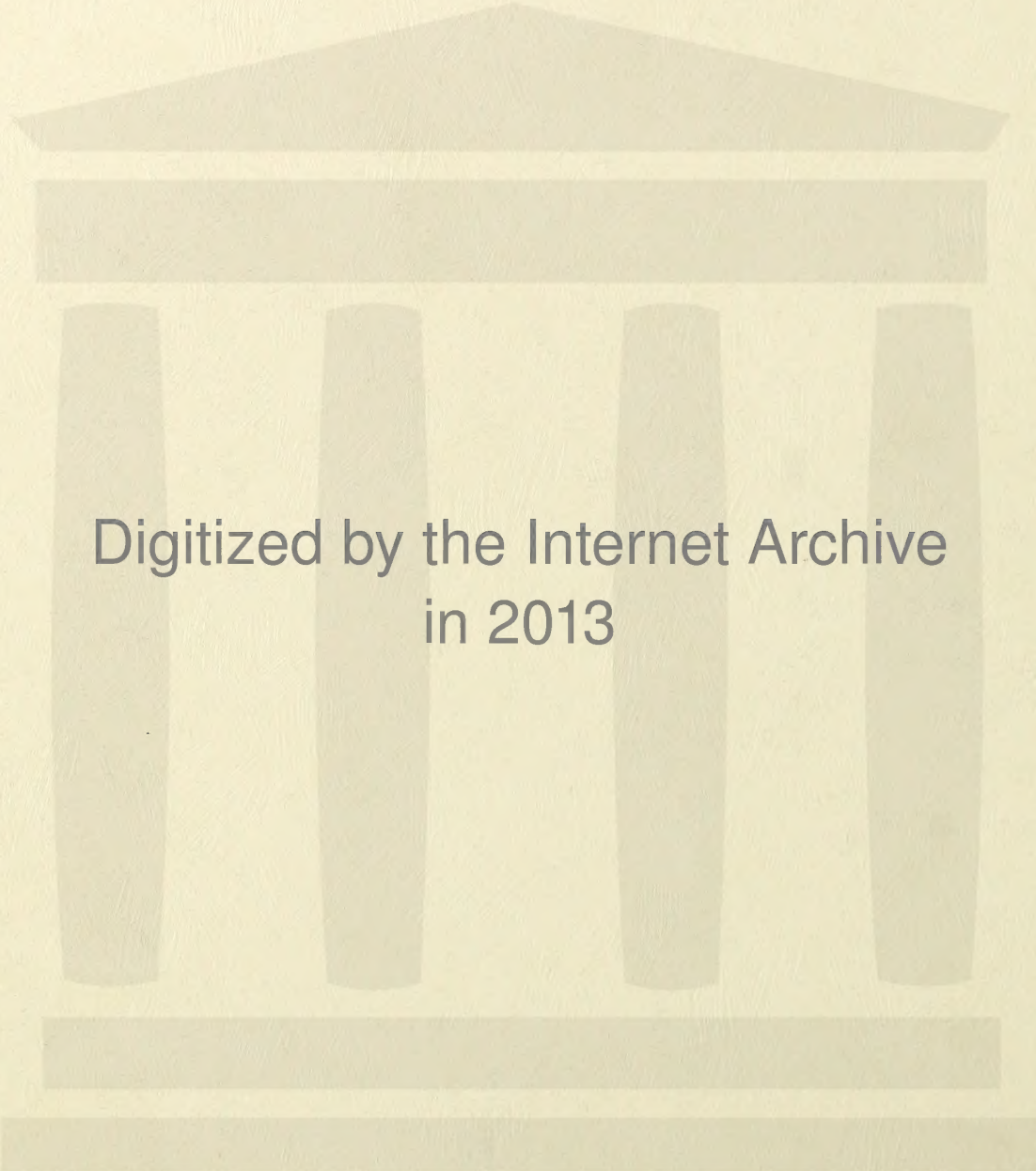


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CANADIAN
JUL 1979

First Annual Report

**ALBERTA
LIBRARY BOARD REPORT
1978/79**



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ALBERTA LIBRARY BOARD

Hon. Mary J. LeMessurier
Minister of Culture

Madam:

I have the honour to submit herewith the First Annual Report of the Alberta Library Board. This report covers the period from the Board's appointment in June 1978 to end of the fiscal year, March 31, 1979.

Respectfully submitted,



William A. Schieman
Chairman.

12th Floor, CN Tower, 10004 - 104 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta Canada T5J 0K5

BOARD MEMBERS

Merron Chorney, Calgary ● Carol Compton-Smith, Ft. McMurray ● Lucille Dougherty, High River ● Ron Hodges, Edmonton ● Gaye Ross, Drumheller ●
William Schieman, Medicine Hat ● Eve Whitmey, Peace River ●

The importance of library service in the cultural and educational fabric of life in Alberta is reflected this year in the increased amount of press coverage of library activities from all corners of the province; the large numbers of new public libraries being opened or in the planning stages and in the appointment of the Alberta Library Board to advise the Minister of Culture on matters relating to library development. The Alberta Library Board was appointed in June 1978 by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council as provided for by Section 10 of the Libraries Act. The selection of the Board was made by the Executive Council from lists of names presented by various library organizations and interested groups.

Appointed for two year terms to May 31, 1980 are Merron Chorny from Calgary, Carole Compton-Smith from Fort McMurray, Lucille Dougherty from High River and William Schieman from Medicine Hat. Ron Hodges from Edmonton, Gaye Ross from Drumheller and Eve Whitmey from Peace River are appointed for a three year term ending on May 31, 1981.



WILLIAM SCHIEMAN,
Chairman



LUCILLE DOUGHERTY,
Vice-Chairman



MERRON CHORNY



CAROLE COMPTON-SMITH



RONALD HODGES



GAYE ROSS



EVE WHITMEY

The Minister of Culture, Hon. Horst A. Schmid, outlined the Board's mandate at its first regular meeting. In general terms, our mandate is to make recommendations on any matters that affect library development over the province as a whole, or over any region of the province. The Board was challenged to review all aspects of library services in the province and has the authority to carry out surveys, call public meetings, promote publicity campaigns and co-operate with or through any established organization or agency in formulating its recommendations.

In particular, the Board was asked to look closely at the following:-

1. LEGISLATION - and in particular the need to review the Libraries Act and Libraries Grant Regulations.
2. NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN ALBERTA LIBRARY SERVICES - to evaluate these services and make recommendations for the period after March 1980.
3. ALBERTA LIBRARY SERVICES TO THE HANDICAPPED AND MULTILINGUAL BIBLIOSERVICE - to examine these two services and make recommendations on their future.
4. REGIONAL LIBRARIES - to study, evaluate and encourage both existing and future library systems.
5. LIBRARY SERVICES BRANCH - to review branch programmes and services and make recommendations for changes based on the discussions and plans for library development.
6. LIAISON WITH OTHER GROUPS - to review and comment upon briefs and submissions concerning library development and to establish and maintain liaison with library organizations in the province.
7. COMMUNITY/SCHOOL LIBRARIES - to review a draft statement on this topic and make recommendations.
8. YOUNG ALBERTA BOOK WEEK - the Board's support for this program was sought.
9. PLANNING - to develop a plan for a library system for Alberta.

1. LEGISLATION

The Board has made recommendations concerning the increase of grants to take account of inflation since the last revision in 1977 and has suggested that any revised grant structures provide improved assistance to regional libraries as compared to other libraries. In addition, the Board asked for a change to the Libraries Act to permit honoraria to be paid to members of the Board.

The Board reviewed applications from ten community organizations requesting designation as community libraries. Designation of such libraries was recommended, and approved, for Brownfield, Debolt, Exshaw, Linaria, Millarville, Niton and Rochester, all of which are hamlets. Designation was not recommended for La Glace, Saddle Lake or Zama City and the Library Services Branch of Alberta Culture has been asked to further investigate these three communities.

A number of enquiries have been received suggesting revision of legislation to allow contributions to library services from improvement districts to be matched by provincial grants, and the Board is studying the implications of such a move.

2. NALDS and SALS

These acronyms for the services provided to rural libraries by Calgary and Edmonton Public Libraries are probably two of the most-used in the province. The Board has met with the advisory committees of both services and with representatives from both city library boards to discuss the services, and the topic has figured prominently in meetings with library organizations. The Board carried out a survey of the two services by means of a questionnaire addressed to all public libraries. This was designed to find out the perception of librarians as to what was available and their opinion of the services actually utilized.

63% of the questionnaires were returned and indicated a lack of understanding of the actual services available and the resources made available. Interlibrary loan, zenith line, consultative services and provision of paperbacks and blocks of books all received high acceptance, but almost one fifth of the respondents made no use of the services.

From the results of this survey and from the discussions with the advisory committees, several major points of concern emerged. It was felt that these services should not continue as long-term propositions; that there was a danger of no-cost, no-obligation services hindering libraries in the development of co-operative systems; that there is a need for a provincial plan to avoid further fragmentation of development and that there is a need for co-operative library

systems with appropriate financial support.

The Board is preparing recommendations for submission to the Minister which will incorporate answers to these concerns.

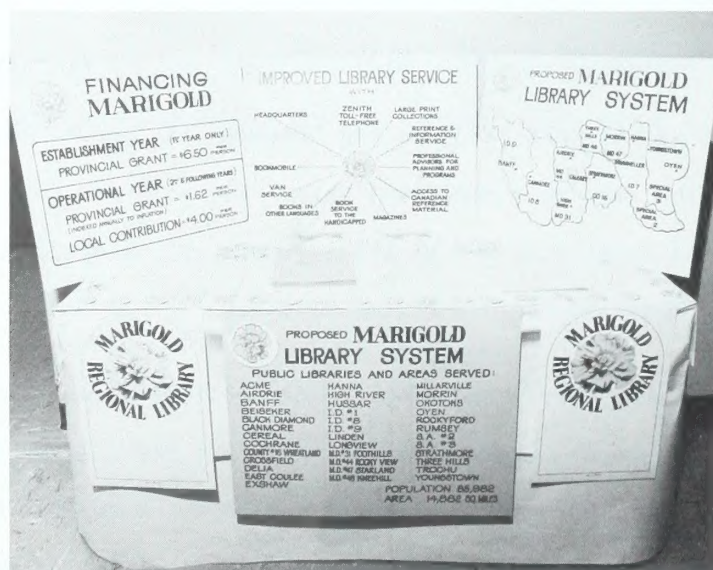
3. ALBERTA LIBRARY SERVICES TO THE HANDICAPPED AND MULTILINGUAL BIBLIOSERVICE

The Board has been impressed with the growth and acceptance of these two services which provide assistance to public libraries serving these previously unserved segments of our population. Discussions with the two city library boards and reports from the co-ordinators have assisted the Board in determining that the two services should be continued under the direct administration of Alberta Culture, Library Services Branch.

4. REGIONAL LIBRARIES

A request from the Yellowhead Regional Library Board for a study of that system was referred to the Board and we recommended that such a study be commissioned. The Board hopes that this study will not only assist the Yellowhead Regional Library in their planning for the future, but will also provide information on which the organizers of future systems can draw in their planning. This study will be commissioned and completed in 1979.

The Board believes that co-operative library systems are the most logical and effective means of providing quality library service outside of the major population centres. To this end, vigorous support has been given to the steering committee of the proposed Marigold Regional Library and assistance in their promotion of this concept.



"Marigold" Display at Library Association Alberta Jasper Conference

5. LIBRARY SERVICES BRANCH

The Board reviewed the programmes and services of the Branch during the current year and was pleased to be able to assist with the publication of three booklists for use in Alberta libraries. The Board distributed copies of the Canadian Library Trustees Handbook to all library boards in the Province. The Branch provides secretariat service and the Board wishes to thank the Director and his staff for their continuing work and support.

6. LIAISON WITH OTHER GROUPS

The Board met with representatives of the Library Association of Alberta and the Alberta Library Trustees Association to discuss library development and, individually, have met with many librarians and trustees around the Province. Briefs from both these organizations were referred to the Board by the Minister for comment and recommendations.

7. COMMUNITY/SCHOOL LIBRARIES

The Board reviewed the Statement on Community School Library and endorsed the views and recommendations therein. Any new libraries of this nature should be encouraged to have separate staffs and be housed in separate facilities within the school.

8. YOUNG ALBERTA BOOK WEEK

The Board was pleased to be able to financially support the first Young Alberta Book Week in November 1978 and has recommended that this celebration be continued and supported with appropriate financial assistance from Alberta Culture.

9. PLANNING

Before one can plan and make recommendations on a future library system for Alberta, one must be familiar with what exists both here and elsewhere. With that in mind, Board members attended conferences in Anchorage (Pacific Northwest Library Association) and London (Ontario Library Association) to meet people involved in library development. The Board also visited the Washington State Library and examined both the Washington Library Network and the Timberland Regional Library System in Olympia.



Alberta Library Board Visits State Library

Future plans call for a meeting with the Saskatchewan Library Development Board and a visit to the Provincial Library in Regina, and the Board has written to its counterparts across Canada suggesting an informal meeting at the Canadian Library Association in Ottawa in June 1979.

Further meetings and discussions are anticipated as the Board moves towards making recommendations for the basis of a library system in Alberta in 1979. The Board sees the need for such a total library system as essential to the provision of more equitable service to all areas of the Province.

I wish to conclude this report by thanking the previous Minister, Hon. Horst A. Schmid, for his strong support to libraries and for his encouragement of our efforts, and to express our eagerness and willingness to work with you as our Minister in the coming year. I wish to commend my fellow Board members for their devotion of time, effort and personal sacrifice for the cause of libraries. We have a solid base on which to build and develop a first-rate and unique library system to serve the people of Alberta.

W.A. Schieman

Chairman, Alberta Library Board

